

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/971,765	GROEN ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Russell Frejd	2128

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to applicant's amendment received on 6-may-2004.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-26.
3.  The drawings filed on 09 October 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All
  - b)  Some\*
  - c)  None
 of the:
  1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

  
**Russell Frejd**  
**RUSSELL FREJD**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

***Allowance of Application # 09/971,765***

1. The following communication is in response to applicant's Amendment, received 6-May-2004.

***Reasons for Allowance***

2. The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter. The instant application is directed to a non-obvious improvement over the invention described in U.S. Patent No. 6,223,143, issued to Weinstock et al.. The improvement comprises a computer readable medium, system and method for enabling a user to identify common cause failure groups within a software based risk model by expanding a fault tree, wherein the fault tree includes a number of inter-related combinations of regular basic events, and furthermore, wherein common cause basic events are automatically inserted into multiple fault tree structures. This patentable distinction is included in each of the independent claims, nos. 1, 3, 4, 13, 21 and 24. The art of record, either individually or in combination, fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious the useful, concrete and tangible < automatic insertion of common cause basic events into multiple fault tree structures > having the corresponding structure which is disclosed in the specification and equivalents thereof. In view of the foregoing, the claims of the present application are found to be patentable over the prior art.

In re Application of: GROEN et al.

***Response Guidelines***

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should clearly be labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

4. **Any response to the Examiner in regard to this allowance should be**

**directed to:** Russell Frejd, telephone number (703) 305-4839, Monday-Friday from 0630 to 1500 ET, **or** the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Teska, telephone number (703) 305-9704. Any inquiry of a general nature should be directed to the Tech Center 2100 receptionist, telephone number (703) 305-3900. The TC 2100 Customer Service telephone number is (703) 306-5631.

**mailed to:** Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:** (703) 872-9306

*Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Fourth Floor (Receptionist).*

Date: 14-June-2004

*Russell Frejd*

**RUSSELL FREJD  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**